CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1433
11 September 1996

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LETTER DATED 11 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE COUNSELLOR OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF RESOLUTION 1996/14 ENTITLED "INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AS AN ESSENTIAL CONDITION FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ABOVE ALL THE RIGHT TO LIFE", ADOPTED (WITHOUT A VOTE) BY THE 48TH SESSION OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES ON 23 AUGUST 1996

As Coordinator of the Group of 21, I have the pleasure in enclosing herewith resolution 1996/14 entitled "International peace and security as an essential condition for the enjoyment of human rights, above all the rights to life", adopted (without a vote) by the 48th session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on 23 August 1996.

The Group of 21 would be grateful if this resolution could be issued for information as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): Hamid Ali Rao
Counsellor for Disarmament
Permanent Mission of India
(For Coordinator of Group of 21)

GE.96-63797

1996/14. International peace and security as an essential condition for the enjoyment of human rights, above all the right to life

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Welcoming the end of the cold war, the easing of international tension and the strengthening of trust between States,

Reiterating the ultimate goals of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Stressing the need for systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons, and of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Bearing in mind that cessation of all nuclear weapon testing within the framework of an effective nuclear disarmament process is in the interest of mankind,

Convinced that the present international situation provides an opportunity to take further effective measures towards nuclear disarmament through the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework, and against the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects,

Convinced also that the implementation of such measures would contribute to the enhancement of international peace and security, and the protection of human rights, above all the right to life,

Recalling the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons,

1. Affirms that weapons of mass destruction and in particular nuclear weapons should have no role to play in international relations and thus should be eliminated;

2. Recommends that the relevant international forums, in particular the Conference on Disarmament, should immediately start negotiations on nuclear disarmament to reduce nuclear weapons globally within a phased programme, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons, thus contributing to the enhancement of international peace and security and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and above all the right to life.

27th meeting
23 August 1996
[Adopted without a vote. See chap. XIV.]